

Weekly Bureau of Information for All Who Till the Soil or Are Interested in Making Homes

ABOUT APPLE PACKING IN MARKET

In an interesting article S. B. Shaw says: Next to grading, the packing of apples is the most important operation connected with their production and sale. If there is one thing more than another that damages the reputation of any fruit section it is the use of the commonly-called "barrel-crate" as a package for placing apples on the market. One had far better give his apples away than to market them, or attempt to market them, in this way. No matter how the fruit, or how careful the grading and packing, apples that are shipped in packages of this kind never reach the buyer in a first-class, attractive condition. The fruit cannot be packed firmly, it is rattled and banged against the sharp edges of the slats, and what is not ruined in this way is often cut into by the knife of some one handling the package enroute from shipper to buyer. As a result, when the apples reach the consumer they are hardly in condition to make a good, first-class grade of cider. The packages most universally used, and the one that will answer the requirements of any market is the standard apple barrel. This package contains approximately eleven pecks, and when used as a means of placing well-graded and carefully-packed apples on the market, it insures the buyer of both a profit and a reputation for his fruit.

Any barrel-maker in Virginia can make the standard barrel when he learns how. There is no patent on it. The average beginning packer, who has the barrel is resting on a solid base. If packing in the orchard, provide planks or boards on which to place the barrels while being filled. This keeps the head of the barrel clean and enables the packer to "rock" it to better advantage. "Rocking" is the shaking of the barrel from time to time during the packing. In order to settle the apples, thus making them fit closer and firmer together. The head or end that is usually opened upon reaching market is placed at the bottom and in this position starting to pack, put in a corrugated paper barrel cap and two or three layers of nicely-folded paper. This not only keeps the fruit in shape, but prevents it from bruising. Then the barrel is ready to be "faced." This consists of placing, by hand, from two to three rows of fruit, stem end down. After "facing" the apples are carefully poured in, and the barrel frequently shaken, until it is almost full. The last two or three rows may be placed by hand, stem end up, thus "facing" both ends of the barrel. The last layer should extend about one inch above the top of the barrel, and be covered either with a corrugated apple barrel cap, or with one or two layers of neatly-folded paper and used in the other end. The head is then put on and forced into place with an apple press. After nailing the head in place see that all holes are securely fastened in their proper positions, label the barrel, and it is ready for market. In packing apples, see that each package is well filled with the same grade throughout, top, middle and bottom. Put in a strictly first-class, honest package, or keep the fruit at home.

GENERAL INFORMATION THROUGH QUESTION BOX

**Warts on Horses.**  
Farmer, Brunswick County: I have a colt that has a great quantity (thirty to fifty) small warts on him. They are (majority) only about the size of a pea, some smaller and a few as large as the end of your finger. He is two years old, and has been with me since he was a foal. Tell me how to take them away. Only a few protrude out as much as half of an inch.

The whole matter is too serious for you to depend upon a layman's prescription. You should consult a veterinary surgeon, and do it quickly.

**Smut in Corn.**  
R. L. C. Goodland County: I have been much troubled with smut in my corn. Please advise me if there is any remedy or preventive by treating the seed corn. Is corn smut poisonous to stock?

The corn-smut disease is caused by a parasitic fungus, which produces its spore masses in the form of smut balls in the ear and along the stalk, particularly at the nodes and joints. Upon being cut, the smut balls will produce spores are liberated. These are capable of retaining their germinating power over winter or longer, and produce great numbers of minute secondary spores, which are carried by wind from one part of the field to another, or from field to field.

Corn smut cannot be controlled by any known method of seed treatment. Infected apparently does not take place at time of sowing, but for some time following the appearance of the young plant above ground.

There seems to be considerable difference of opinion as to the effect upon corn or other crops of the smut. Some say it is a direct poison, others say it produces an indirect poisonous effect upon animals eating it either with grain or fodder. It is not unlikely, however, that an excessive amount of the spores may mechanically affect the digestive functions, and in this way cause sickness.

**Young Alfalfa.**  
T. O. B. Henrico County: The sample of alfalfa you sent us are so dry and brittle we cannot make anything definite out of it. J. A. Hunter, the farmer's demonstration agent, says: "From your description, more than from the samples, the indications are that it is the work of the three-cornered alfalfa hopper. Please mail some fresh alfalfa with the roots attached. If you mail at night, it should reach us next morning in perfectly fresh condition."

You had better write Mr. Hunter to come and see your alfalfa. His address is Henrico County Courthouse.

**Plant Trees.**  
We all know that trees are not only an adornment to the farm premises, but they have also practical value, not only for their wood, but for their shelter from the winds, and shade from the burning sun.

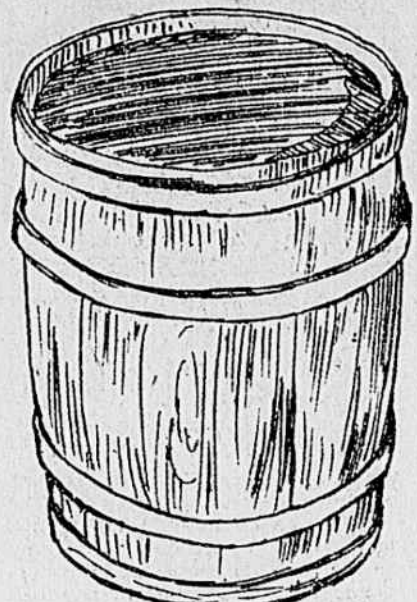
Now is the time to plant them. If they be fruit trees, each locality has its favorite varieties, and you should know them and plant only such as are adaptable. If it is windbreaks and shade, you should know that the government experiments have proved that white pine, Norway spruce, Austrian and Scotch pines and American arborvitae, have no superiors. These kinds grow rapidly and are not lacking in vigor or adaptability to thin soils, exposed situations and other adverse conditions. But do not plant evergreens exclusively about the home. Deciduous trees occupy a place in any scheme for farm improvement, which the evergreens alone do not and cannot fill. Hard or soft maples, elder, elm, where they are suitable, should not be overlooked.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

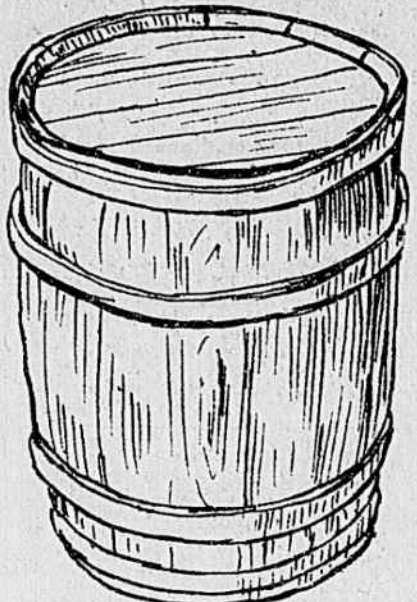
All inquiries and communications addressed to The Times-Dispatch will receive prompt attention. This department will appear each Monday, and contributions or suggestions will be welcomed.



Properly Packed.



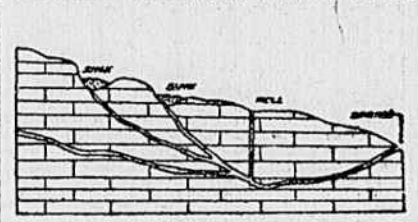
Head Removed, Showing Corrugated Apple-Barrel Cap.



Barrel as it Reached Market.

WATER CONTAMINATION

The safety of water supplies when near sources of possible surface pollution often depends largely on the character and quality of the material in which the well is sunk. Surface waters



Pollution of Sub-Surface Water in Limestone.

In sinking through sandy soils or surfaces are filtered, and in the finer sand much of the polluting matter which they carry is frequently removed. In coarser sands or gravel the degree of filtration is less, but water taken from sand and gravels at a considerable depth may be considered relatively safe. Waters from wells in clay are not often polluted, since surface pollution filters through clay very slowly.

Waters from wells in limestone are frequently polluted, owing to the fact that the passage for underground water for a considerable distance and which are very often directly connected with the surface. The water in these passages and channels at different depths which sometimes form a continuous passage for underground water for a considerable distance and which are very often directly connected with the surface. The water in these passages and channels at different depths which sometimes form a continuous passage for underground water for a considerable distance and which are very often directly connected with the surface.

**Tent Caterpillars.**  
Tent caterpillars come from an egg laid by a brownish moth, of medium size. The eggs are deposited in bands around the smaller twigs of apple, wild cherry, and other trees. They hatch in the following spring, and the caterpillars begin feeding upon the young leaves.

When fully grown, the caterpillars are about two inches long, somewhat hairy, and one form has a longitudinal white stripe in the center of the back. At this time they leave the tree and wander off singly, to seek sheltered places where they spin their cocoons. Three weeks later, the moths emerge and lay their eggs.

If a grower is spraying his fruit trees faithfully with arsenate of lead in any shape, this, of itself, will prevent injury from tent caterpillars, since any internal poison is fatal to them, or the tent may be crushed with the gloved hand when they are reached; or, they can be burned by a torch on the end of a pole; or, they can be twisted out of their place by means of a wire brush made for the purpose, attached to the end of a long pole. These remedies are effective only when the caterpillars are in their tents early in the morning, or in wet weather. Even in trees which are not ordinarily sprayed, a single spraying of arsenate of lead, when caterpillars are observed, would probably stop their depredations.

In the case of the forest tent caterpillar, the larvae can be destroyed when they collect in bunches on the trunks of trees. Prune off and destroy the twigs holding the eggs.

**Birds Save the Forests.**  
Those who are trying to stop the ruthless destruction of birds should be reminded of a recent government report, insects cause an annual loss to trees of the country of over \$100,000,000. This would be many times greater if it were not for the birds which seek and destroy them. There are 400 species of insects which prey upon the oak. The willow has 186 species which threaten its destruction; the pine, 162; the hickory, 170; the birch, 106, and the elm, 80. The careful analysis of the stomachs of woodpeckers, titmice, kinglets, wrens, flycatchers, swallows and others show that these birds are busily engaged in consuming numbers of these very insects. Many birds are fond of the destructive vegetable growths that are found upon trees. Mice and other small animals that gnaw the bark are eagerly watched and devoured by owls, hawks and other birds of prey. Aside from this, robins and diverse birds, by scattering seed, are active agents in reforestation.

**Farmers as Movers.**  
Statistics prepared under the direction of the Department of Commerce show that farmers are incessantly moving.

Replies from nearly 6,000,000 farmers in answer to the question how long they had resided upon their farms showed that 52 per cent had moved within five years. Over 1,000,000 farmers had moved within a year. In the North, 27 per cent had lived upon their farms five years or longer; in the West, 44 per cent, and in the South, 41 per cent. The figures for the South included colored farmers as well as whites.

These figures are significant, in the opinion of the government authorities, because they show that farmers move before they have had time to become acquainted with the various conditions of the soil and climate of any one locality, this lack of knowledge resulting in a small yield of crops per acre, in neglect of buildings and in failure to conserve the fertility of the soil. Still, nothing can be done about the matter until some way can be found to eradicate the roving germ in human nature.

BRIEF NOTES THOUGHT OUT BY THE WAYSIDE

The foliage of many trees is injured by spraying with various fungicides and insecticides, plum and peach foliage being quite susceptible to this type of injury, and the leaves of maples may be injured by arsenate of lead.

Save at least double the amount of seed required for your next year's crop.

Labor-saving devices are appreciated more on the farm than ever before. It seems almost impossible to give help to do the necessary work, and we are obliged to farm differently and use mechanical means instead of hand labor.

It is well enough to help Nature in caring for stock, but it is all wrong to set Nature's way aside and place our swine in damp and poorly ventilated houses.

With the coming of the long winter evenings more attention can be given to horticultural books and papers.

Good apples, well graded and well packed, are good property.

Speak mildly, milk carefully, feed liberally, water plentifully, brush gently and abundantly, and the cows will respond freely, copiously and bountifully and be more satisfactory productively and prolifically.

The best bred cow in the country, if she is unsupplied with good food, will prove a dismal failure, while the meanest scrub will do something toward paying her board bill if given plenty of suitable food and care.

To cure the horse of the habit of pawing, fasten a short piece of log chain—say five or six lengths—by means of a light strap, to his leg just above the knee—in the stable, or even in the field, he will quickly leave off the habit.

Remove and burn all diseased or dead oak or other trees. This is one way to cut down insect ravages.

In any treatment of trees, one should always have before him some definite object. He should leave strictly alone the numerous irrational methods constantly being advanced, and apply to them first the measuring stick of common sense.

The natural food for hogs is not ill-quids but solids; therefore, we cannot understand how some men believe they can fatten hogs on slops alone. Many of them keep on trying year after year but never succeed.

**Fertilizers On Alfalfa.**

There are doubtless many conditions under which commercial fertilizers judiciously applied, may profitably be used to stimulate a more vigorous growth, both in new and old seedlings but the idea that is more or less prevalent that commercial fertilizers may be used to immediately make any soil productive is a fallacy. Commercial fertilizers should be applied in an experimental way until the farmer has learned what may best be used under local conditions. On many soils lime does not seem to be needed for alfalfa, but on others it is absolutely essential to the successful growing of this crop. It is well to apply lime on a portion of the field when seeding alfalfa for the first time, especially if difficulty has been experienced in growing clover, or if there is any other indication of an acid soil.

Much care should be exercised in the purchase of seed to avoid the introduction of noxious weed seeds on the farm. If dodder is introduced it should be thoroughly eradicated before it goes to seed, even at the expense of destroying the stand of alfalfa.

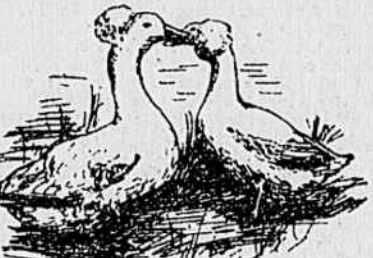
Do not seed a large acreage of alfalfa at the first attempt. A small acreage should be seeded under as favorable conditions as possible and this increased after some experience has been gained in growing this crop.

Facts for Farmers; Stock Breeders; Poultry Raisers; Orchardists; Truckers and Gardeners—Queries and Answers



Crested White Ducks.

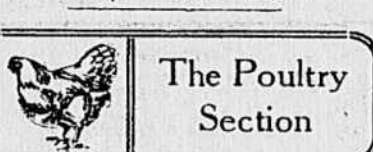
The crested white duck may be called an ornamental duck, much the same as the Polish chickens. They are not bred to any great extent in this country, and they are seldom seen except in the show rooms. They have no special value to the farmer, as more easily bred and more profitable birds are to be found for commercial purposes.



Crested White Ducks.

These ducks have a medium sized head and bill; a large, well-balanced crest upon the crown of the head; a rather long neck; a medium length back; breast round and full; body of medium length; wings that fold smoothly; hard, stiff tail feathers, with well-curved feathers in the tail of the drake. Their eyes are large and bright, and of a blue color. The shanks, toes and webbs are of a light orange color. The standard weight of the adult drake is seven pounds; adult duck, six pounds; young drake, six pounds, and young duck, five pounds.

**Transplanted Plants.**  
Give transplanted plants plenty of time to recoup. Do not water them too much or the soil will become sour and further retard the growth of the plant. Do not place in too warm a window, for until the growth starts they want to be in a shady place.



The Poultry Section

**Improving the Market Egg.**  
The egg is a perishable product, and a complete knowledge of the structure of the egg is necessary to understand exactly why, and the reasons for handling it as such. The egg when laid is usually germfree. The shell is composed of three distinct layers of porous construction, so that the entire shell

will permit gases to pass through and its water content to evaporate. The outer layer of the shell is very delicate. The strictly fresh egg has a characteristic frothy, bloomlike appearance. Frequently handling, washing, etc., removes the outer bloomlike layer, giving the egg a shiny, greasy, old appearance and makes the shell more porous. When the outer shell covering has been removed, the moisture within evaporates more rapidly, causing the contents to shrink. Washing not only makes the shell more porous, but it moistens the two tough shell membranes, one directly in contact with the inner layer of the shell and the other surrounding the contents of the egg. Washing causes eggs to spoil more rapidly because bacteria can enter with greater ease.

The two shell membranes separate at the large end of the egg and form what is known as an air space. While the egg is still warm, just after being laid, there is no air space, but as the contents cool a small air space is formed in the large end of the egg. The egg is held moist by evaporation, the air space grows larger and the contents shrink.

Market eggs are graded in approximately the following way by the most of the experienced packers:

1. Extra select. Eggs in this class must be strictly fresh, large in size, clean-shelled, free from stains and unwashed, contents full and white, strong. This grade usually brings 2 1/2 cents above the price of firsts.
2. Firsts. Eggs in this grade must be reasonably fresh, large in size, clean-shelled, but not as fresh as the extra select.
3. Trade. Eggs of this grade are put up to meet the trade demands, and are usually for immediate consumption. They may be nearly equal to firsts in quality, but are smaller in size, and oftentimes many are slightly soiled, dirty and stained, but for immediate use they are as good as firsts. They generally sell about 4 1/2 cents per dozen less than the firsts, and about the price of current receipts.
4. Seconds. This grade includes eggs that will not come in any of the better grades. They are composed generally of stale, shrunken eggs, eggs small in size, slightly beated and slightly soiled. They must be edible, free from rots, spots and bad eggs. The price of seconds is usually 2 cents or more below that of trade eggs.

The Virginia Poultryman with eggs for sale can do this as well as the packer, and get in quick touch with the consumer.

**Poultry-House Ventilated.**  
Fresh air keeps the house pure and dry. Nothing will cause disease more readily than a damp house or one which has a foul odor.

There are several ways to supply ventilation, but the simplest and least expensive is to have an open or muslin-covered roof. These open roofs on the houses should be protected in some way to prevent the rains and snows from being blown into the interior. The plan is to attach an awning made of wood or some other light material, arranged in such a manner that it can be lowered or raised.

Muslin will keep out the cold and rain to a certain extent, but when it gets wet the cloth loses some of its merit as a ventilator, as damp muslin will not permit a free passage of air. By protecting the muslin with an

awning it will not be affected in that way. The muslin should be put on a frame so that it can be removed on a pleasant day, allowing fresh air to circulate through the house on such days.

Walking is one of the best exercises. It develops almost every muscle of the body.

Every poultry-yard should be so constructed that it can be moved with much difficulty. This is often necessary when a disease strikes the flock.

Clean nests means clean eggs. Clean, fresh eggs sell at a profit.

Do not deceive yourself with the belief that you can successfully raise poultry without admitting plenty of sunshine to the poultry-yard and the house.

Pigeons require frequent baths. If it is not possible to have one located permanently, supply one three or four times weekly.

No drafts in the poultry-house at night should be allowed. Ventilation must come some other way.

Squabs should be in prime condition for market at the age of four weeks. Dispose of them as near this period as possible.

**Poultry for Market.**  
The housewife who wishes to fit some poultry for market and get top figures ought to use meal rather than grain for fattening. Whole oats are not a suitable food for chickens at any stage. Ground oats are excellent even for the finishing process. Corn meal with some milk is a fine feed. Whole grain of any sort ought to be avoided when chickens are closely confined.

**Winter Poultry Work.**  
The fall and winter months offer some advantages in starting a poultry plant. At that season of the year good breeding stock can be purchased at a reasonable price, owing to the fact that poultry-raising in these cases is compelled to sell some of this year's breeders to make room for the growing stock—the pullets and cockerels that were hatched this spring.

**Charcoal is Good.**  
Charcoal is a very safe and valuable adjunct to your feeding variety. A little of it goes a long way, but that little tends to keep everything in health. If the coal is hard to obtain burn some corn and feed that while it is fresh at least twice a week, and will be of benefit to all partakers.

CHICKEN-HOUSE NOTES

It is a mistake to feed only corn and wheat to fowls, omitting foods which supply aluminum for eggs.

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GOVERNMENT REPORT WILL BE MADE TO-DAY

Wheat Crop Expected to Be About 800,000,000 Bushels, and Corn 2,500,000,000 Bushels.

CHICAGO, November 8.—The government November crop report will make its appearance on the Board of Trade immediately after the closing of the regular session to-morrow. It is expected the total crop of corn will be estimated around 2,500,000,000 bushels. The wheat crop will remain around 800,000,000 bushels until the final report on 16 yield, which will be made in December.

Weather conditions since the October report have been favorable for the maturing of corn and there has been less damage from frost this fall than usual. The total crop of corn last year was 2,477,000,000 bushels and in the record year of 1912 it was 3,126,000,000 bushels. The oats crop has been placed at 1,123,741,000 bushels and there will be little change to day, but this is because it is estimated that the amount of old corn on the farms is the smallest ever reported at 2.5 per cent of last year's crop, or 62,000,000 bushels against 123,000,000 bushels carried over last year. Taking into consideration the crop raised and the carry-over stock, the total corn supply available November 1, is estimated by accepted authorities at 2,150,000,000 bushels against 2,555,000,000 bushels last year and 3,190,000,000 bushels in 1912.

The wheat market is in a strong position. The export transactions vary from day to day, but this is because of the lighter offerings, and inadequate tonnage for carrying the grain to the Old World.

The best authorities in the spring and winter months offer some advantages in starting a poultry plant. At that season of the year good breeding stock can be purchased at a reasonable price, owing to the fact that poultry-raising in these cases is compelled to sell some of this year's breeders to make room for the growing stock—the pullets and cockerels that were hatched this spring.

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It has been said all along that foreign corn did not come into the corn market of the United States, but last week their purchases were liberal wherever corn was to be had. Foreigners also bought the new crop in Scotland.

The export demand for oats has ruled lighter but this has been caused by inadequate offerings where wanted, coupled with a lack of tonnage at the seaboard.

**THE OLDS GASOLINE ENGINE**  
**Makes Farm Work a Pleasure**  
It Saws Wood, Pumps Water, Grinds Up Grain, Cuts the Feed, and Is Adapted for Any Other Work Where Power Can Be Used.

The Olds Engines are not only the best and most satisfactory of gasoline engines, but they are very reasonable in price.

**From \$60.00 Up, Depending On Power Required.**

Write or see us as to your requirements. We take pleasure in giving information at any time.

**The Implement Co.**  
1302 Main Street, Richmond, Va.

**Our Home Company**  
INCORPORATED 1832.

**Virginia Fire & Marine Insurance Co.**

WE INVITE YOUR SCRUTINY AND SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE

Assets - - - - - \$1,730,370.00

**OUR** solidly attractive offering is 8 per cent int. based on a 40 per cent valuation of Atlanta property.

**8%**

WE have been in business for 20 years, and not a dollar has ever been lost through us.

These valuations are arrived at by expert appraisals. Atlanta real estate is steadily increasing in value. You can't go wrong on it.

**Green, Tilson & McKinney, Attorneys**  
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**A Man's Life**

is certainly the most valuable property he has.

He will have house insurance, cow insurance and hog insurance, and yet be indifferent about life insurance.

But is this carelessness FAIR to either himself or his family?

**Life Insurance Company of Virginia**  
Organized 1871.

The OLDEST, the LARGEST, the STRONGEST Southern Life Insurance Company.

Richmond, Va.

**80%** of our ads resolve around three words—namely,

**"The Safe Executor"**

Remember our name—if you please!

**Virginia Trust Co.**

"the Safe Executor," RICHMOND, VA.,

Our Own Resources - - - \$2,700,000.00  
Investments Held in Trust - - \$5,000,000.00

Established 1892.

**ALMOST EVERYONE**

Is possessed of highly-prized personal articles. They are not safe at home, and it's a poor time to realize this after burglary or fire. Our Safe Deposit Boxes afford absolute protection to their contents.

**FIRST NATIONAL BANK**  
Ninth and Main, Capital and Surplus, \$3,000,000.00.